



VICTORIAN AMATEUR FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

VAF A INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

Infectious diseases such as coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Hepatitis B and HIV (AIDS) have the potential to be transmitted during team and contact sport where people gather closely in large numbers and the risk of collision and injury is greater. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the diseases and how they spread. The safety and wellbeing of our participants is our number one priority.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is most likely to spread from person-to-person through direct close contact with a person while they are infectious, close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes or by touching objects or surfaces that are contaminated with virus-laden mucus and then touching your mouth or face. To help slow the spread, clubs are to practise good hygiene and physical distancing and strictly understand and adhere to the [AFL Victoria COVID-19 Return to Play](#) protocols as updated and determined by the Victorian State Government and AFL Victoria.

Hepatitis B, HIV (AIDS)

Serious blood-borne infectious diseases such as Hepatitis B and HIV (AIDS) may spread through blood to blood contact via broken skin and open wounds and/or through contact between a person's broken skin, mouth, eyes and other mucous membranes with another person's infected body fluid. They cannot be passed on by contact with saliva, sweat, tears or urine (as long as no blood is present).

It should be stressed that the risk of being infected by a serious blood-borne infectious disease through participation in sport is very low, however the VAF A believes it must adopt and implement all reasonable strategies to further minimise that risk.

VAF A Blood Rule Policy

The VAF A has a [Blood Rule Policy](#) outlining the steps and processes that clubs and players must follow when a player has an injury or wound that is bleeding.

Deliberate Smearing of Blood

If a player intentionally smears or otherwise causes blood to be placed on another player's body or uniform, the field umpire must immediately stop play and allow that player such time as is necessary to have the blood removed or item of uniform removed and replaced.

Disposal of Bloodied Clothing and Other Material

Each club or team must ensure that:

- a) Any bloodied item of uniform or clothing of a player is placed as soon as possible in a hygienic sealed container and laundered to ensure the removal of all blood; and
- b) All towels, wipes, bandages, dressings and other materials used in the treatment of bleeding players must be placed in a hygienic sealed container and discarded or destroyed in a hygienic manner.

General

Hygiene

To help stop the spread of Infectious Diseases, clubs must ensure that:

- a) Each of its players and club members observe a high standard of personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitisers and avoiding touching their eyes, nose and mouth.
- b) No players or club members attend training or matches if they have, or people they have been in contact with, have cold or flu like symptoms.
- c) Each of its players and club members seek medical treatment immediately if they have cold or flu like symptoms.
- d) Players do not urinate in (other than in a toilet) or about any dressing rooms or on the playing surface prior to, during or immediately following the completion of any match.

Dressing Rooms

Each club or team must ensure that all dressing rooms, benchtops, doorknobs, hand basins, toilets and other areas occupied by the team prior to, during or immediately following the completion of the match are thoroughly cleansed and disinfected particularly after contact with blood.

Reportable Offences

As per the [AFL Laws of the Game](#), an umpire shall report any player or official who commits or engages in:

- a) Spitting on or at another person.
- b) Spitting on or at an umpire.
- c) Misconduct or serious misconduct (i.e. biting)